

MILWAUKEE COUNTY WHIG
MEETING.

A meeting of the Whigs of Milwaukee and vicinity, held according to prearrangement, at the Court House, in Milwaukee, on the 26th day of June, 1841. Col. JAMES CLYMAN, was called to the Chair, and E. R. COSANS, elected Secretary.

The object of the meeting having been explained at length, by Messrs. J. H. Tweedy, and Wm. R. Leaghtree.

On motion of Mr. Leaghtree, a committee of seven was appointed by the chairman, for the purpose of preparing and reporting resolutions expressive of the views and sentiments of the meeting:

The committee consisted of J. H. Tweedy, Amosette Street, Joseph Ward, Wm. R. Leaghtree, William Brown, John Harris, and Charles Hart.

The Chairman by their Chairman, reported the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, to our great surprise and mortification, James Deane Doty, has been nominated to the office of Governor of this Territory, by John Tyler, President of the United States, shortly after his induction into office; and

Whereas the President is liable to be deceived in regard to the character and qualifications of every applicant for office, and has, as we believe, been especially misinformed as to the claims and character of James Deane Doty, our present Executive; and

Whereas, President Tyler, in the honest discharge of his duties, has invited a rapid scrutiny into the character and pretensions of every person whom he may have nominated for office; and

Whereas, from recent information we are induced to believe, that the nomination of the said Doty, will be for some time withheld from the Senate, on account of serious charges having been preferred against him; and that we may yet have an opportunity to be heard at Washington, on the subject of this appointment; and

Whereas, we have discovered that said Doty, in order to repel these charges and sustain his character, has been incessantly and industriously soliciting the support of the Whigs in various portions of the Territory: therefore

Resolved, That it is both the duty and the policy of every true Whig of Wisconsin, acquainted with the history and character of the nominee for the office of Governor of this Territory, to avail himself of the opportunity afforded by the honesty and magnanimity of President Tyler, and to express fully and fearlessly his views and sentiments in regard to an appointment so important to the honors of our Territory, and to the integrity of the Whig party in Wisconsin.

Resolved, That we most cordially approve of the language in the recent message of President Tyler, inviting "on the part of the Senate a just scrutiny into the character and pretensions of every person" whom the President might "bring to their notice in the regular form of a nomination for office," and we honor him for his manliness in the exhibition of cheerfulness on his part to acquiesce in the decision of that body.

Resolved, That if the Senate of the United States will follow up such invitation with a corresponding disposition to peruse the offices of the general Government, the floodgates of official profligacy will be at once closed, and a safe barrier raised against that almost universal tide of defalcation, which for the last six years has been sweeping away the public money, disgracing the character of the American people, and was fast wearing away the foundation of public and private morality.

Resolved, That we view with scorn and abhorrence such a spirit as that manifested on the part of a late Senator of the United States, who strongly recommended to the Secretary of the Treasury, the continuance in office of a public defaulter in consideration of the political influence and the number of friends of such defaulter, concluding his disgraced recommendation with "better let him be."

Resolved, As the sense of this meeting, that the appointment of James Deane Doty, as Governor of Wisconsin, is repugnant to the wishes of a large majority of the Whigs of this Territory, that he has failed to redeem the promises which he made through his friends at and since his last election of Delegate to Congress, of paying over all balances due from him to the Territory, and that conscious of his exposure to the just reprobation of the people of Wisconsin he comes back among us with feelings of vindictive hostility against those, who, in the performance of the duties of good citizens, have felt themselves constrained to expose his character, and that we fear that no act of his, hereafter, can adequately atone for his violation of a high public trust and an abuse of the liberality of Congress.

Resolved, That by two acts of Congress, passed one in 1836 and the other in 1838, \$40,000 were granted by Congress, to be expended by the Governor and Legislative Assembly, in the construction of public buildings at the seat of government of this Territory:

That in pursuance of an act of our Legislative Assembly, approved Dec. 3d, 1836, James D. Doty was elected by said Assembly, one of three commissioners, constituting a Board of Public Buildings, and soon after by said commissioners, Treasurer of said Board; and assuming to discharge said office, did receive from the Treasury of the U. States the sum of \$40,000, to hold the same subject to be drawn for expenditure in the construction of public buildings, under the direction of our Legislative Assembly:

That said Doty as Treasurer with his associates, remained in office until the 8th day of March, 1839, when they were removed by the Legislative Assembly, for official misconduct:

That during his continuance in said office, the sum of \$12,000 was expended contrary to law, and in a manner reckless and extravagant; that more than \$7,000 00, was unlawfully over-paid to a public contractor, and that, at the end of his term of office—after giving credit and making the most liberal allowance, for all pretended public expenditures, however extravagant or illegal—he was a defaulter to the Territory, in the sum of \$7,000 and upwards:

That from the said 8th day of March, 1839, until the present time, during the period of more than two years, said Doty, although repeatedly requested and directed by law, has failed and refused, to render an account of his acts as Treasurer, aforesaid, either to the Legislative Assembly or to his successors in office, for that purpose duly authorized by law, and has also always failed and refused, to pay over to the proper officers of the Territory, any part of the monies for which he was delinquent:

That, under the direction of the Legislature, his successors in office did, in Sept. 1839, commence suit against said Doty and his executors on his official bond as Treasurer, in order to recover the public moneys; and that said suit has been continued from term to term of Court, without trial, at the instance of the counsel of said Doty or the suggestion of his absence from the Territory, as delegate in Congress; and that, he has thus managed up to this time, to prevent a trial, and to evade a verdict of a jury, and a judgment of a court, recording his official delinquency:

That the protests set up by said Doty, in palliation of this, his official conduct, have been frivolous, evasive, and inconsistent; showing at different times a defiance of the laws, a detestation and contempt of the authority of our Legislature, and a shameless disregard of decency:

That the evidences of the facts, are derived from acts of Congress and of our Legislative Assembly, from sentences and concurrent Reports of committees, and public officers of our Legislature,—so he said published, supported by the sworn testimony of unimpeachable witnesses, and from the many admissions of the party charged, in letters and documents made public:

That in view of these facts, supported by evidence so abundant and undeniable—we Whigs of Wisconsin, do feel ourselves justified and bound by a sense of duty to ourselves, to our Whig brethren of the Union, to the administration of the national government, whose policy and measures we support, to declare and proclaim James D. Doty, the present executive, to be as a high public officer of our Territory, a public defaulter for a large sum of money, and under circumstances of the most aggravated guilt, and moral turpitude.

Resolved, That it is our duty here to make known, that statements have been prevalent, charging James D. Doty with bribery and corruption, in the exercise of his duties as a Judge of the United States, for the Territory of Michigan, on the trial of an Indian Chief, for murder, and also charging him with being party to a fraud on the U. States' Treasury, in selling and passing the allowance of a fraudulent land claim.

That these acts, as charged, must have occurred, if at all, many years ago, in the infancy and obscurity of our Territory, and could not have come under the cognizance of many of the present citizens of the Territory:

That we are informed that these charges properly substantiated, have been or will be, lodged in the Departments at Washington:

That these charges have been as frequently and distinctly presented by men of the highest character, and never (to our knowledge) disproved or refuted, that we cannot but believe that they rest on some foundation of truth.

Resolved, That we shall ever fearlessly resent and repudiate that policy, which is by some strenuously incassated, and by others dastardly acceded to, that fidelity to the Whig party requires submission and adherence to our non executive.

Resolved, That in no part of his political history—in no act of his public life—in no public or private expression of his sentiments, have we ever recognized the defiance of a principle or the approval of a sentiment dear to the great Whig party of the Union.

Resolved, That as Whigs we acknowledge no fraternity of political sentiments and opinions with our newly appointed Governor, who repeatedly within the last two years has authorized his friends of the Loco Foco party in Wisconsin, to proclaim him as friendly to the administration of Mr. Van Buren; that he never acted with the Whig party until its success was certain, but we believe that in politics as well as in morals his principles hang loosely about him, that he has been all things to all men with the single purpose of securing for himself the favor of which every party might be desirous.

Resolved, That we most earnestly invite an independent expression of the Whigs of this Territory, in relation to the character of this appointment, which we deplore as a dangerous precedent, injurious to the best interests of the Territory, and dangerous to the cause of the Whig party of Wisconsin.

Resolved, That no difference of opinion among the Whigs of Wisconsin, in relation to the character of Gov. Doty, is good ground for division among the Whigs on other issues, and that in the approaching election of delegates to Congress, the Whigs of the Territory are invited to rally to a man in defence of their long cherished principles, now rendered more daily dear since the President has given practical evidence of their purity and of his determination to maintain them in all their purity.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers, and sent to the editors of the several Whig papers in the Territory for publication, and be published in hand bills, and that copies be forwarded to the President of the U. States—to the members of the Cabinet, and to the several members of Congress.

Which being read, were unanimously adopted—upon motion of J. H. Tweedy, a committee of three were appointed by the Chairman, to prepare a reconnaissance embodying the charges and facts submitted in the resolutions, and have the same circulated for signature.

Messrs. Harris, Story, and Tweedy, were appointed and committed; during the meeting, several addresses were made, supporting the resolutions.

Upon motion of Mr. Leaghtree—the meeting adjourned.

JAMES CLYMAN, Chairman.

E. R. COSANS, Secretary.